

**VERONICA'S MOTIVATION TO SAVE THE NATION REFLECTED IN JOEL  
SCHUMACHER'S *VERONICA GUERIN* (2003): AN INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL  
APPROACH**



**RESEARCH PAPER**

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## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. Background of the Study

*Veronica Guerin* (2003) is produced by Jerry Bruckheimer, while Joel Schumacher is a Director. It is written by Carol Doyle and Mary Agnes Donoghue. It was produced by Touchstone Picture and distributed by Buena Vista Pictures. The duration of the movie is 98 minutes, and it is used English language. Here are the cast of the actors and actresses, Cate Blanchett as Veronica Guerin, Gerard McSorley as John Gilligan, Ciarán Hinds as John Traynor, Brenda Fricker as Bernie, GuerinBarry Barnes as Graham Turley, Simon O'Driscoll as Cathal Turley, Don Wycherley as Chris Mulligan, Alan Devine as Gerry Hutch. It was released at two countries, at July 11th 2003 in Ireland and at October 17<sup>th</sup> 2003 in USA, this movie got \$9,439,660 for its selling.

Joel Schumacher was born in New York USA on August 29 1939. He was a son from Marian and Francis Schumacher. His mother was a Swedish and his father was a Baptist from Knoxville, Tennessee who died when Joel was four years old. Schumacher studied at Parsons the New School for Design and The Fashion Institute of Technology in New York. After first working in the fashion industry, he realized his true love was in filmmaking. He moved out to Los Angeles, where he began his media work as a costume designer in films such as *Sleeper* and developed his skills with television work while

earning an MFA from UCLA. He wrote the screenplay for the 1976 low-budget hit movie *Car Wash* and a number of other minor successes.

He also wrote 1978's *The Wiz*, an adaptation of the stage play of the same name. His film directorial debut was *The Incredible Shrinking Woman* in 1981, which starred Lily Tomlin, and he quickly made more successful films, including two "brat pack" works. He also made a lot of movie such as :  
*The Incredible Shrinking Woman* (1981)*D.C. Cab* (a.k.a. *Street Fleet*) (1983)*St. Elmo's Fire* (1985)*The Lost Boys* (1987)*Cousins* (1989)*Flatliners* (1990)*Dying Young* (1991)*Falling Down* (1993)*The Client* (1994)*Batman Forever* (1995)*A Time to Kill* (1996)*Batman & Robin* (1997)*8mm* (1999)*Flawless* (1999)*Tigerland* (2000)*Bad Company* (2002)*Phone Booth* (2003)*Veronica Guerin* (2003)*The Phantom of the Opera* (2004)*The Number 23* (2007)*Blood Creek* (2009) *Twelve* (2010). The awards for this movie are Cate Blanchett was nominated for the Golden Globe Award for Best Actress for Motion Picture Drama and the Empire Award for Best Actress. The film also won the UGC Cinemas Audience Award for Best Irish Film. This movie also got the positive reaction from the society, when the movie premiered the society was very surprised and they became concern with the scarified from a journalist. They also gave the appreciation to this movie because it can reveal the scandal from a big drug gangster and the murdering of a Veronica Guerin as a journalist.

This movie is adopted from Veronica Guerin real story as an Ireland Journalist. The story begins in 1994, when the illegal drug trade drives crime

rates to the highest level ever recorded in Ireland. In the same year Veronica Guerin who is a journalist known for reporting church scandals and corporate corruption, starts to write about the crime. Her work brings her face to face with gangsters, but she can not connect them to drug until her investigations led her deeper into their world. The story continues when Veronica facing a judge for her thousand plus parking tickets and numerous speeding violations. With her incredulous surprise she lets off with only a (big) fine and in possession of her precious driver's license. She speeds off, calling everyone she knows on her cell phone to break the good news. Meanwhile, a pair of gun toting thugs on a motorcycle takes chase and catches up with her at a traffic light. As Veronica talks to her editor and oblivious to the danger, she turns to look at the car window, a passenger pulls a gun and shot her.

Time jumps back a couple of years and Veronica enters the dregs of Dublin's neighborhoods where used heroin syringes litter the street and play things for the little kids who must grow up in such squalor and danger. She tries to get one of the addicted denizens to grant her an interview and reveals the source of the drugs that plagues them. Her pleas falls on deaf ears even when she observes the drug dealers leaving their marketplace in brand new Mercedes. Veronica learns from a local anti-drug activist parented the chilling statistics of death in their streets due to heroin addiction. She resolves to make the public aware of the problem and forces the government and police into action. In 1994, she begins to specialize in crime reporting.

Like some other journalists, Guerin has good sources in the Garda Síochána, Ireland's national police force. But she goes further, developing contacts among the criminals whose exploits she covers, and who feeds her disparaging personal information about their rivals. One of her unflattering stories, for example, reports that a gangster named Martin Cahill has father children with his wife and his wife's sister. This is so risky, trying in the court of public opinion criminals who eludes the courts of justice. In effect, she and her newspaper, *The Sunday Independent* changes the rules of what considers fair game in the coverage of organized crime.

Guerin works on her own hours, writes from home, rarely enters the newsroom, and with other reporters, many of whom resent her relatively swift rise to the top of her profession and her unconventional methods. The way she gets information is an ethical minefield, one she navigates on her own. Her editors give her a long leash and seem content with the trade-off in which they mostly don't ask questions and she delivers exclusives. In one scene of the film, her editors and her newspaper's lawyer ask her about a story in which she reports that a gangster named Gerry Hutch has orchestrated Cahill's assassination. She never asks to identify her source for the story another gangster, whose motives and credibility she suspects.

Her investigation through the police department gives a result; her relation to Gerry Hutch led her to John Gilligan, a rich ex-inmate who is responsible for the most drugs' case in Ireland. She is shot in Christmas, and the television keeps reporting the case for several days. When Veronica comes

to Gilligan's home to trace his properties, she gets tortured without the reason and gets no answers. After giving a terror call, Gilligan offers some money to Veronica as his solution to what has happened. Her family and friends pursue her to stop her investigation. Her decision to bring her case to public and continues investigating the drugs and crime makes her killed.

The movie is interesting to be studied, because: first, Journalism is an interesting world, and being a journalist is a high risk job. It can be shown from the movie; she has to be responsible to what she is reporting. Sometimes she is highly pays for the important news or the great issue she gets. The movie tells that it is not easy to be a journalist because some consequences of being it. And the movie shows how to be a professional journalist although her life becomes a stake.

Second, Veronica Guerin is a movie with full of moral values, especially for journalist in the world. It is full of spirit and important to give clear understanding about what happen to a journalist in the past as the consequence in doing her job. The most interesting is her motivation in reporting the truth to the people; even she has to die for it. Veronica Guerin could pass her life although the contradiction between her position as a housewife and her dedication as a journalist to show for justice.

Third, the film deals with a tragic and brutal subject very well and it represents a corrupt, violent and menacing time in Dublin. The actors all portray the various characters very well. It almost seems like a documentary at times. Beside for that reason the movie is adopted from the true story. And

from her dedication in reporting news as a journalist, Veronica gives the inspiration to the journalists in around the world that in making news it must be true based on the real fact.

From those reasons above the writer is inspired to analyze  
**‘VERONICA’S MOTIVATION AS A JOURNALIST TO SAVE THE  
 NATION REFLECTED IN JOEL SCHUMACHER’S *VERONICA  
 GUERIN* (2003): AN INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH.’**

## **B. Literature Review**

Actually, the writer is not the first person who analyzes the movie of *Veronica Guerin* by Joel Schumacher. However, it does not mean that the writer only plagiarizes the previous studies. To prove the originality of the research, the writer presents the previous studies.

The first previous research is Hendriyati Astuti (2007) Universitas Sebelas Maret Surakarta, the title is *Veronica’s Struggle as a Journalist Reflected in Joel Schumacher’s Veronica Guerin Movie*. She employs a Feminist Approach. From the research she finds that Veronica’s struggle has many challenges to write the crime news. Although Veronica is a woman, but she can proof that the truth in getting the news in information must be shown to the society. Her struggle is dedicated to the journalists around the world as their inspirations.

The second is review by Karina Montgomery ( October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2004) :  
 her research title is *Review on Veronica Guerin as an Ireland’s Women*

*Journalist*, she finds *Veronica Guerin* Movie is interesting, because Veronica Guerin as a main character reveals the big crime case in her country. In this movie she finds that Veronica keep struggling to proof the truth by showing to the society, and she is appreciated what Veronica was up against when so much information can not be conveyed due to the various criminal's status and legal issues.

Different from two previous researches the writer focuses on how the motivations from Veronica as the major character to save the nation as an Ireland Journalist in Psychological perspective. For this reason the writer interested to analyze **‘Veronica’s Motivation as a Journalist to Save the Nation Reflected in Joel Schumacher’s *Veronica Guerin* ( 2003 ) : An Individual Psychological Approach’**

### **C. Problem Statement**

The problem statement of this study is ‘how the motivations of Veronica as a journalist are being reflected in *Veronica Guerin* Movie?’

### **D. Limitation of the Study**

The study analyses on ‘how the Veronica’s motivations as a Journalist are viewed from the individual psychological approach.’



### **E. Objective of the Study**

The objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To identify the movie based on structural elements
2. To identify the movie based on an individual psychological approach

### **F. Benefit of the Study**

The benefits of this study are:

1. Theoretical benefit

Hopefully, the result of this research will give some additional knowledge and information to the literature world, particularly the literary study on *Veronica Guerin* Movie.

2. Practical benefit

This study is expected to give deeper understanding about the movie especially from the aspect of the individual psychological. From this research the writer hopes the other researcher interested in analyzing *Veronica Guerin* Movie.

### **G. Research Method**

#### **1. Type of the Study**

This study belongs to qualitative research, which refers to research based on qualitative data taken from the script of *Veronica Guerin* Movie.

## **2. Type of the Data and the Data Source**

This study consists of two data source:

### **a. Primary Data Source**

The primary data source is the movie itself; Veronica Guerin by Joel Schumacher

### **b. Secondary Data Source**

The data are taken from the related book in the library and also taken from browsing in the internet.

## **3. Technique of the Data Collection**

In collecting data, the writer watches the movie repeatedly and uses library research by collecting and selecting the appropriate data from many sources.

## **4. Technique of the Data Analysis**

The writer uses descriptive technique in analyzing the data. It is used to describe the elements of the play to make the data understandable.

## **H. Research Organization**

To make it easy to understand the whole research, the writer divides this paper into five chapters.

*Chapter One* is introduction that consists of background of the study, problem statement, literature review, limitations of the study, objective of the study, benefit of the study, research method, and research paper organization.

*Chapter Two* is underlying theory in which the writer explains the theory of an individual psychological that will be employed in this study and theoretical application.

*Chapter Three* is the structural analysis of the *Veronica Guerin* movie, which includes the character and characterization, plot, setting, point of view, theme and style.

*Chapter Four* presents individual psychological analysis dealing with the problem in the *Veronica Guerin's* movie script.

*Chapter Five* presents the conclusion and suggestion for this paper.